THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) United Airlines, Sabena, Canada 3000, Scandinavian Airlines System, All Nippon Airways, Swiss Air, Royal Nepal Airlines, North-West Airlines, Air France and Pakistan International Airlines have withdrawn or reduced their operations to India recently or plan to do so in near future.

(b) Total passenger traffic to and from India during September to December 2001 was 36.82 lakhs against 40.62 lakhs during the same period of 2000 implying a drop by 9.4%.

(c) All airlines plan their operations keeping in view the commercial viability and comparative yields of different routes. However, the Government of India has given a special dispensation by permitting operations of extra section flights by foreign airlines during IATA winter season. Moreover Indian Airlines and Air India have deployed additional capacity on some sectors.

Sharing of information by Nepal on IC-814 Hijacking

480. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has not parted with their investigation details of the December, 1999 hijacking of Indian Airlines IC-814 at the Tribhuvan Airport in Kathmandu so far;

(b) if so, whether it has also not shared sensitive information on the five Pakistani hijackers;

(c) if so, what are main reasons; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) The Government of Nepal has shared with the Indian authorities all information required by the Indian side relating to investigation carried out by them in the hijacking of IC-814.

Strengthening of Pawan Hans

481. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering investment to strengthen operations of Pawan Hans Helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal for setting up a hub in Karnataka is under considerations; and

(d) if so, the action taken / proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited have plans to acquire additional capacity during the Tenth Plan period from internal resources/market borrowings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Management Cadre for IA

482. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is managed by IAS officers instead of technocrates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to have an effective management cadre for Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) At present the concerned administrative Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation is holding the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Airlines.

(b) to (d) Necessary action was initiated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for filling up the post of Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Airlines which was to fall vacant on 26.5.2000. However, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) was unable to select a suitable candidate. Since Government had decided to go in for disinvestment of 51% of its share in Indian Airlines and the process of disinvestment was to start soon, it was decided to give the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director to the concerned administrative Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. All the other officers of Indian Airlines except for Director Security and Chief Vigilance Officer are from the Company itself.